

two wars is over \$1.2 trillion—nearly equal to this year's Federal budget deficit. President Bush did not ask the American people for a tax increase to finance these wars, so we have not only a legacy of great human casualties, but also one of immense financial debt.

The American involvement in the war in Iraq is drawing to a close, and I support President Obama's stated intention to remove all American combat forces by year's end.

But I also believe it past time to end our involvement in Afghanistan. We should bring our troops home now. There is nothing more for our forces to achieve there. There are other fronts in the war on terror, such as Pakistan, Yemen, and Sudan, and we need to continue our efforts to combat violent extremists in those countries. But there is no overriding purpose served by continuing military involvement in Afghanistan. Let us leave Afghanistan to its people, and reserve the right to strike at any foe arising from Afghanistan that poses a threat to our country and its people.

As a nation we grieve for those whose lives were so brutally taken on 9/11. We honor their memory, and we support their families. And I hope that all our military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan will be brought home to us very soon.

**WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER: 25 YEARS OF EMPOWERING WOMEN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS**

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2011*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ground-breaking Women's Business Development Center and the two remarkable women who founded it.

In 1986, Hedy M. Ratner and S. Carol Dougal saw a need: the lack of support for women eager to participate in the business world. Then, through their vision and persistence, they worked to address that need by creating the Women's Business Development Center (WBDC). The goals they set were ambitious to say the least—to accelerate the growth of women-owned businesses and microenterprise ownership, to increase the economic impact of women business owners on families and communities, to build awareness of business ownership as a path to economic self-sufficiency, and to help stimulate policy and system changes to empower women in the economy. Today, 25 years later, the achievements of the WBDC are evident, even as it continues to be an innovative national leader in expanding opportunities for women.

The Center already has helped more than 65,000 women in the greater Chicago area start, improve and expand their small businesses. Its success has spurred the creation of 14 other centers in 6 states. The oldest and largest women's business assistance center in the country, the WBDC is constantly developing and implementing new approaches to help potential and current women business owners. The Center and its amazing staff give women the tools, the needed support and the confidence to know that they can become successful entrepreneurs.

Whether you are a woman with a glimmer of an idea for creating a business or an established woman business owner who wants to take advantage of new opportunities, the WBDC is there to help. The Center provides a full range of programs and services: financial literacy and entrepreneurial trainings, workshops, one-to-one counseling, and capacity building. Its programs include Women's Business Enterprise, Women's Business Finance, Procurement and Technical Assistance, Child Care Business Initiative, and Latina Business Development.

Hedy and Carol are recognized leaders who have advised business groups and public officials at all levels about ways to help women improve their families' well-being and our nation by creating new business opportunities. I am one of many who have been fortunate enough to receive their advice on ways to improve federal contracting and lending policies and to learn about the barriers that must be torn down so that more women can enter realm of business ownership.

I congratulate Hedy, Carol and the extraordinary staff of the Women's Business Development Center for 25 years of success. I know that they will help many, many more women become business owners and leaders in the years to come.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE SIXTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2011*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) on its sixty-second anniversary.

Since its founding in 1949, the ABWA has devoted itself to providing valuable educational, training, and networking opportunities to business women. Alongside three businesswomen from Kansas City, Mr. Hilary A. Bufton, Jr., recognized the important role of women in the American workforce and sought to utilize and develop their knowledge and skills by starting the ABWA. Over the past sixty-two years, the ABWA has flourished into an expansive network with many members in chapters across the nation.

Due to the inclusive nature of the organization, the ABWA has a diverse membership, encompassing women from a variety of professions. The commitment to the professional development of women and harnessing their entrepreneurial spirit and potential has made the ABWA an important and influential organization. Many, including President Ronald Reagan, have recognized their hard work and contributions to the American economy.

I am delighted to express my hearty congratulations to the ABWA as they celebrate sixty-two years of success. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing the ABWA.

**HONORING AMERICAN NEPHROLOGY NURSES ASSOCIATION KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION WEEK**

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2011*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the high quality health care provided by America's nephrology nurses. The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) has designated September 11–17, 2011 as Nephrology Nurses Week to help draw attention to the growing health problem of kidney disease and the tireless efforts of the men and women who care for those afflicted by it. I would particularly like to thank ANNA Chapter 504 Northern California which represents the many dedicated nurses in the San Francisco Bay Area and the North and South Bay Areas. These hardworking professionals provide hands-on care for individuals with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), creating essential and personal nurse/patient relationships.

Unfortunately, kidney disease touches many in my home district. Minorities, including African Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders are particularly affected by CKD because of under-treatment or lack of proper management for diabetes and hypertension, the two major causes of ESRD. Kidney disease afflicts both young and old, but close to 50 percent of those over 65 develop chronic kidney disease.

Those suffering from kidney disease are often people who require our support the most. Nephrology nurses give that support every day in every treatment modality. In caring for patients, nephrology nurses show that they are skilled, knowledgeable, motivated, professional and compassionate. These qualities make a serious difference in the lives of millions of people.

Again, thank you to each of America's nephrology nurses for your dedication, your skills, and the care and comfort you provide every day. You deserve more than just a week's attention each year. I hope that this body will work to support both nurses and patients in the upcoming sessions, and to ensure that those who stand against kidney disease don't stand alone.

**TRIBUTE TO DR. EDYTHE M. ABDULLAH**

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2011*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Dr. Edythe M. Abdullah on her investiture as the sixth president of Essex County College. As the first female to lead this 13,000 student institution, Dr. Abdullah has already demonstrated her strong competency in leadership and her knowledge of academia. Clearly, these attributes contributed to her selection as president following the college's nationwide search for a replacement for President Emeritus, Dr. A. Zachary Yamba.

Dr. Abdullah's impressive background as a college administrator which includes her presidency at Florida State College has allowed